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News Release

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NEW YORK POTATO STOCKS DOWN

Potato stocks, held for all purposes on December 1, 2009 by New York growers, dealers, and processors, totaled 2.50 million hundredweight (cwt.), down from the 2.60 million cwt. held a year ago. Storage accounted for 51 percent of the 2009 potato crop, compared with 46 percent last year.

The 13 major potato States held 265 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2009, up 9 percent from a year ago but slightly below December 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage account for 69 percent of the 2009 fall storage States' production. Klamath Basin stocks total 4.50 million cwt on December 1, 2009, up 13 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Potato disappearance, at 120 million cwt, was 5 percent below December 1, 2008 and down 9 percent from 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 14.1 million cwt, was up 11 percent from the same date in 2008 but 1 percent below 2007.

Processors in the 9 major states have used 60.9 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 12 percent from the same period last year and down 17 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 11.0 million cwt of the total processing, up 3 percent from last year but 14 percent below the same period in 2007.

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